

# *California Department of Food & Agriculture*

## **Minutes**

of the Joint Meeting of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board  
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force

Held on

Friday, June 6, 2008

California Department of Food & Agriculture  
1220 N Street, Auditorium  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **PD/GWSS BOARD**

#### **Members Present**

Kevin Andrew  
Dennis Atkinson  
Pete Downs  
Ben Drake

Wally Ewart  
Drew Johnson  
Steve McIntyre  
Al Rossini

Steve Schafer  
Herb Schmidt  
Jim Unti

#### **Members Absent**

Greg Coleman

Bradford Lange

Dana Merrill

### **PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

#### **Members Present**

Kevin Andrew  
Ted Batkin  
George Bruening  
Ben Drake

Nancy Irelan  
Andrew Johnson  
Richard Mounts  
Steve Nation

Corky Roche  
Beth Stone-Smith

#### **Members Absent**

Larry Bezark  
Nat DiBuduo  
David House  
Scott Hudson

Joe MacIlvaine  
John Snyder  
Judy Stewart-Leslie  
Robert Wample

Craig Weaver  
David Whitmer  
David Wineman

### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

Tom Esser  
Mike Falasco  
Ken Freeze  
Craig Hanes  
Paul Kronenberg  
Janet LeMasters

Greg Morris  
Kari Morrow  
Stacie Oswald  
Ted Rieger  
Karen Ross  
Roger Spencer

Nicole Stivers  
Sean Veling  
Doug West  
Bob Wynn

### **CALL TO ORDER**

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Herb Schmidt and PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson Kevin Andrew called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board (Board) and the PD Advisory Task Force. A quorum was present for the PD/GWSS Board but not for the PD Advisory Task Force.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Herb Schmidt and Kevin Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bob Wynn reported that there were some changes in personnel in the Executive Office. Undersecretary George Gomes had announced his retirement effective June 30, 2008. In May, Rayne Pegg (formerly Rayne Thompson) with the California Farm Bureau Federation had been appointed as the new Deputy Secretary of Legislation and Policy.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Herb Schmidt asked PD/GWSS Board members to review the minutes from the meetings held on April 22 and May 2, 2008.

- It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously by the PD/GWSS Board to approve the minutes of the April 22 and May 2, 2008, meetings.

### **Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote**

Motion: Steve McIntyre      Second: Ben Drake

In Favor: Andrews, Atkinson, Downs, Drake, Ewart, Johnson, McIntyre, Rossini, Schafer, Schmidt, Unti

Against: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Coleman, Lange, Merrill

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next joint PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force meeting was scheduled in the fall on October 29-30, 2008 in Temecula, California. Tours of various nurseries in the area were planned for the two day meeting.

## **BOARD AND TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP**

Bob Wynn reported two recent resignations from the Board: Frank Leeds effective May 5, and Jim Unti effective June 6, at the conclusion of the meeting. Bob said he was soliciting recommendations for their replacements. Chairman Schmidt thanked Jim for his work on the Board and on behalf of the industry. On behalf of CDFA, Bob thanked Jim for being treasurer for the PD/GWSS Board all these years and presented him with a certificate of appreciation for his service on the Board.

## **RESEARCH DIRECTOR RFP**

Tom Esser reported that CDFA received one bid in response to the PD/GWSS Research Director RFP. The bid was from Dr. Nancy Irelan. The bid proposal was for two years at \$96,166 per year, for a total of \$192,332.

After discussion, the Board voted and passed the following motion:

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend that the Department accept the bid of Dr. Nancy Irelan and establish a contract with her to serve as the PD/GWSS Research Director. The two-year contract will cost a total of \$192,332.

### **Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote**

Motion: Al Rossini      Second: Pete Downs

In Favor: Andrews, Atkinson, Downs, Drake, Ewart, Johnson. McIntyre, Rossini, Schafer, Schmidt, Unti  
Against: none  
Abstain: none  
Absent: Coleman, Lange, Merrill

### **ASSESSMENT RATE FOR 2008 HARVEST (FY 2008)**

Treasurer Jim Unti discussed the assessment rate for the 2008 harvest. He projected that the value for this year's crop would be close to last year's with the crop size about the same. It was suggested the assessment rate be set at \$1.00 per \$1,000 value, reflecting a reduction of \$0.50 per \$1,000 value compared to the 2007 crop year.

After discussion, the Board voted and passed the following motion:

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend that the assessment rate for winegrapes harvested and crushed in 2008 be set at \$1.00 per \$1,000 of value.

#### **Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote**

Motion: Steve McIntyre      Second: Al Rossini  
In Favor: Andrews, Atkinson, Downs, Drake, Ewart, Johnson. McIntyre, Rossini, Schafer, Schmidt, Unti  
Against: none  
Abstain: none  
Absent: Coleman, Lange, Merrill

At this time, the Board also discussed increasing the budget line item for new applied research projects for the coming fiscal year. The Board voted and passed the following motion:

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the PD/GWSS Board that the budget for applied research be increased by \$1,000,000 in the Board's budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09.

#### **Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote**

Motion: Pete Downs      Second: Kevin Andrew  
In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Downs, Drake, Ewart, Johnson. McIntyre, Rossini, Schafer, Schmidt, Unti  
Against: none  
Abstain: none  
Absent: Coleman, Lange, Merrill

Chairman Herb Schmidt inquired as to how much money the Board had raised through assessments over the years. Kari Morrow stated that the total assessments came to \$31.8 million from the beginning of the program and that \$18 million had been spent for basic research to date.

### **FISCAL UPDATE AND BOARD BUDGET FOR FY 2008-09**

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on federal funding for Pierce's disease, and Kari Morrow reported on the PDCP State Program Operation's budget and the Board's revenues and expenditures (see attachments).

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year. The Board voted and passed the following motion:

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend the Board's budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09 be adopted as displayed, for a total of \$5,506,748.

#### Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

Motion: Al Rossini      Second: Ben Drake

In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Downs, Drake, Ewart, Johnson, McIntyre, Rossini, Schafer, Schmidt, Unti

Against: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Coleman, Lange, Merrill

### **RESEARCH DIRECTOR REPORT**

Dr. Nancy Irelan reported on her recent activities and her plans for continuing them under the renewed contract. She mentioned targeted research projects, intellectual property, commercializing solutions, and the continuing role of the RSAP.

### **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CONTRACT AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATION**

Craig Hanes stated that the Outreach Subcommittee had met on May 23 to discuss and review the new contract awarded to Brown Miller Communication.

Ken Freeze updated the Board on Brown Miller's objectives for the new contract. They would continue as before publishing monthly newsletters, Eblasts, attending trade shows, etc. New items they were adding to this coming year included grower workshops that are tied into existing events as opposed to stand-alone workshops. The Outreach Subcommittee felt it would be easier to get people to go to functions that were already taking place. At the workshops, they would also showcase the applied research and How To's, taking with them information and articles, i.e. the Temecula protocol with the use of Admire, use of plant barriers to slow down the movement of sharpshooters and other insects that are out there. They are also doubling their attendance at the trade shows, adding interactive aspects to their own trade show, and planned to attend numerous meetings around the state.

Ken noted that Mike Miller was in New York to attend the annual Public Relations Society of America award's ceremony where Brown Miller Communication won two Silver Anvil Awards in Public Relations. Ken explained that this award in the public relations industry is equivalent to the Academy Awards. The awards were for a community program put together for Salinas and the second for a multicultural program.

### **AREAWIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

Beth Stone-Smith stated that the information on the areawide program was no different from what was reported on April 22 in Ventura. She briefly went over the treatment areas of Riverside, Tulare and Kern County. In Temecula, 20 acres had been treated. Per Nick Toscano, another 100 acres were slated to be treated next week with imidacloprid. To date, 500 GWSS had been trapped which is higher than last year. This is in citrus treated areas. Coachella has made no treatments to date. Only 10 GWSS had been trapped. This is due to the previous years wide spread treatment with imidacloprid. We haven't had our first generation of GWSS yet, and are in that quiet period because they are in the nymph stages in the fields. When July hits, the trap finds will increase. In Coachella, we have over 941 traps. They have found high populations of the smoke tree sharpshooters and no GWSS. These traps are in grapes and in citrus. In Kern County, 10 miles of windbreaks in the General Beale area have been treated. In North Kern, Judy Stewart-Leslie, who is the treatment coordinator in the Highway 65 area, has authorized 150 acres of imidacloprid treatments. This is a follow-up to the fall foliar treatment. We are trying to get the rest of Kern into the fall foliar

treatment regime with the imidacloprid. They had trapped 430 GWSS which is much lower than last year. In Highway 65, there are 150 acres with trap finds in organic citrus so we are treating that as well and the buffing zones around the treatment area. It is still quiet even compared to last year with low traps levels and are more spread out. The fall foliar treatments have been effective so far. Activity has been seen in both the Northern Zone and General Beale areas in Kern County on the east side around the windbreaks. The windbreaks have been treated with more scheduled for the future. We want to get everyone on the fall foliar treatment. There were more finds than last year. In Tulare County, we also did a fall foliar treatment and are following up with the imidacloprid treatments. There are 3,000 acres authorized for treatment and 1,100 acres has been treated to date. Treatments will be added as we get trap finds. They have trapped 62 GWSS in 2008. The fall foliar treatments have helped out here as well. We used the exact same protocol as in 2003 and 2004 for treatments. The main focus has been on citrus treatments.

### **APPROVED TREATMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Greg Morris began with an update on the new approved treatment program (ATP). The first shipments by Bordier's Nursery would occur on June 10 and 11 with one shipment each day. The nurseries participating in the program are Norman's, Bordier's, Valley Crest Tree Company and Village as well as 16 different yards and four different counties. These nurseries are going through their second trap cycles and continue to work on their Best Management Practices (BMP). The BMP is reviewed and approved by county and PDCP staff, which then generates the compliance agreement. Once a compliance agreement is signed, a note will be placed on the website bulletin board to let everyone know that this particular nursery is now allowed to ship under this program.

This nursery treatment contract has been approved and funded by the Board for over four years. The original intention of this contract was to help nurseries in Ventura County. The criteria included that shipping nurseries had to ship on a regular basis, had to be within a half mile of commercial citrus and originally had one treatment per year. We have since changed that to multiple treatments, have 18 nurseries that are qualified, and have had treatments in nine of them. Treatments are based on pest populations. We look at historical and current data and when populations start to come up, that is usually what triggers a recommendation for a treatment. In 2007-08, we treated approximately 2,000 acres and just had two other treatments done and spent \$300,000 in treatment costs which is why we are asking for 300,000 for Ventura.

At the May 2 meeting, it was decided to use a portion of the \$300,000 in other southern California counties. We earmarked \$200,000 for Ventura and \$100,000 for the others. Greg contacted the other counties in the infested areas to see if they had any nurseries they thought would benefit and would meet the same criteria as in Ventura County. He also went over the procedures for this type of contract.

Regarding the treatments, Greg did not contact Santa Barbara County because all their shippers are "free from," San Bernardino County has no shippers on a regular basis doing only 30 shipments per month, and Los Angeles County has no one who meets the criteria because they don't have any citrus. In Orange County, there is one citrus shipper and he said no. Riverside County has one nursery that would benefit with a maximum request of \$35,000. San Diego County has one nursery in Pauma Valley that would benefit from this contract and their estimated cost was around \$70,000-\$75,000.

### **PIERCE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM STAFF REPORTS**

**Rapid Response Program Update.** Craig Hanes stated that the counties had all their traps out in either the state run or county run programs as part of the statewide survey for GWSS. Sacramento County still has two infested areas: Foothill Farms and Rancho Cordova. Last year in Rancho Cordova, there were no detections. The county will conduct surveys and PDCP staff will assist them.

In Foothill Farms, they treated over 200 properties last year and will be trapping and surveying this year. In Tulare and Fresno counties where we have programs (both in San Joaquin Valley), they are actually going to be starting treatments this coming week in existing urban-infested areas that include Porterville and the central Fresno areas. These are repeat areas based on where they have had detections in the past. In Santa Clara County, there are three infested areas--Branham, Blossom Hill and Evergreen--all three in the city of San Jose. The Blossom Hill area had no detections last year. There were a few detections Branham, but they were minimal and the county treated those areas and Evergreen. They already have their traps out and will be surveying.

**EIR.** Tom Esser stated that CDFA had released an RFP about a year ago for an environmental consultant to assist in preparing the new environmental documents that were required to satisfy the Appeals Court's decision against the PDCP EIR. It was decided to not accept any of the bids which were submitted, but instead to re-advertise. The new RFP should be issued in late August and will provide more detail and direction regarding the new EIR.

#### **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126**

Not held.

#### **RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING**

N/A

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

N/A

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.